

U.S.S.N. 10/811,264

-2-

GKNG 1192 PUS

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A convoluted boot made of an elastic material, and having a longitudinal axis (A), the boot sealing an annular chamber between an outer joint part and a shaft connected to an inner joint part of a universal joint and comprising:

a first collar (2) to be fixed to the shaft and a second collar (3) to be fixed to an outer part of the universal joint as well as a boot portion (4) with a plurality of annular folds (5), which boot portion (4) connects the two collars, wherein each of the annular folds (5) comprises a first annular outer flank (11) facing the first collar (2) and a second annular outer flank (12) facing the second collar (3), wherein the surface of at least one of the two annular flanks (11, 12) of at least one of the annular folds (5) comprises a plurality of raised portions which project from a uniform annular face, wherein the raised portions comprise burls (13).

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A convoluted boot according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the burls (13) are partially spherically shaped.

4. (currently amended) A convoluted boot according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the burls (13) comprise a height of approximately 0.05 to 1.3 mm above the uniform annular face.

5. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 4, wherein, at their base, the burls (13) comprise a diameter of approximately 3 mm.

6. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 1, wherein the raised portions, in a cross-sectional view, are semi-lenticular in shape.

7. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 1, wherein, on the at least one annular flank (11, 12), the raised portions are uniformly distributed on at least one circle extending coaxially relative to the longitudinal axis (A).

U.S.S.N. 10/811,264

-3-

GKNG 1192 PUS

8. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 7, wherein 20 to 120 raised portions are arranged on one circle.

9. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 7, wherein the raised portions of one circle are arranged at a maximum distance of 10 mm from one another.

10. (currently amended) A convoluted boot according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that at~~ wherein in at least one annular fold (5), both annular flanks (11, 12) are provided with raised portions, and wherein the raised portions (13) of two opposed annular flanks (11, 12) are arranged so as to be radially or circumferentially offset relative to one another.

11. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 10, wherein, at two adjoining annular folds (5), the raised portions of the two opposed annular flanks (11, 12) are positioned on circles with different radii.

12. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 7, wherein the raised portions on a first circle are arranged so as to be circumferentially offset from the raised portions on a second circle extending coaxially relative to said first circle.

13. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 7, wherein two adjoining circles are arranged at a maximum radial distance of 10 mm relative to one another.

14. (currently amended) A convoluted boot made of an elastic material, and having a longitudinal axis (A), the boot sealing an annular chamber between an outer joint part and a shaft connected to an inner joint part of a universal joint and comprising:

a first collar (2) to be fixed to the shaft and a second collar (3) to be fixed to an outer part of the universal joint as well as a boot portion (4) with a plurality of

U.S.S.N. 10/811,264

-4-

GKNG 1192 PUS

annular folds (5), which boot portion (4) connects the two collars, wherein each of the annular folds (5) comprises a first annular outer flank (11) facing the first collar (2) and a second annular outer flank (12) facing the second collar (3), wherein the surface of at least one of the two annular flanks (11, 12) of at least one of the annular folds (5) comprises a plurality of recesses which are set back from a uniform annular face, wherein the recesses comprise indentations (15).

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A convoluted boot according to claim [[15]] 14, wherein the indentations (15) are partially spherically shaped.

17. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 14, wherein, on the at least one annular flank (11, 12), the recesses are uniformly distributed on at least one circle extending coaxially relative to the longitudinal axis (A).

18. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 17, wherein 20 to 120 recesses are arranged on one circle.

19. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 14, wherein the recesses are arranged to directly adjoin one another.

20. (previously presented) A convoluted boot according to claim 17, wherein the recesses on one circle are arranged so as to be circumferentially offset relative to the recesses on a second circle extending coaxially relative to said first circle.